

January 30
1930

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1930

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“These plates (from which the Book of Mormon was translated) have been revealed by the power of God, and they have been translated by the power of God. The translation of them which you have seen is correct, and I command you to bear record of what you now see and hear.”—JOSEPH SMITH.

No. 5, Vol. 92

Thursday, January 30, 1930

Price One Penny

NEARNESS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING*

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

BY the glad announcement of holy angels upon the plains of Judea, and with that marvelous display of light that shed its radiance over the face of this globe, the heavens and the earth were rejoicing that Christ was born, that God was honoured, that earth had received its King in mortal form. Resting within that sacred body was the glorious Spirit who had created the world, and worlds without number, born to die that He might redeem what He had created and earn the right and the title to rule over it.

This conception of the Latter-day Saints, that Jesus Christ was verily the Son of God, I say becomes essential in order to qualify Him to fulfil His great mission. Why did He come to earth? He had glory enough. He was a God and had produced worlds; He stood in honour; but He had a sacred mission to perform upon earth. He came to atone for the fall of man, for as Adam fell, all men were brought to a state of mortality; so through the atonement of Jesus Christ was that state of mortality to be changed to immortality. The death of every man that had descended from Adam could not pay the price; it required some one with just the qualities in him that Jesus Christ had. He who fell and brought mortality and death into the world was himself in a

*From an address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., on Sunday, December 29th, 1929.

state of immortality, and it required one in that state to atone for the fall, for the sin that had been committed. If Jesus Christ was verily the Son of God, then He was sired by an Immortal. God the Eternal Father must have in His Son His own characteristics, and so there was blended in this Child, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, immortality. No wonder He could say that no man could take His life. And yet, because He was also the child of a mortal woman, there were blended in Him the elements of mortality, to that extent that He could lay down His life; but it was all voluntary on His part. He could have lived—He also had the ability to die. I say that the atonement required the death of a God, and here is a God, the Son of God. In Him there was immortality, and His death was essential to pay the price of Adam's transgression—the death of a sinless One. No one else could produce those elements, those qualifications, that Jesus Christ did. And, as I have observed, the death of all men would not have accomplished this desirable end; it required one like unto Him to die and to die voluntarily to earn a value that would be efficacious.

A TRUE FRIEND IN NEED

Just how He has accomplished this we may not yet fully understand. I remember a circumstance happening many years ago that taught me a very impressive lesson. I saw a man come into possession of the old homestead where he and his brothers and sisters had been born. A sacred relic of the family had descended to him in this old estate. He intended, of course, to preserve it within the family, a sacred shrine to which all might come and pay their homage. Times became hard, however, and he put a mortgage upon that old home, never for a moment thinking that he would lose it. He thought that he could pay the mortgage and ultimately redeem it. But times became more difficult with him, so much so that he could not even pay the interest, much less the principal; and in due course of time the holder of that mortgage, forced to recover something of his investment, foreclosed the mortgage. It was a sad day and a sad scene to see this man compelled to gather up his earthly belongings and move out of the old homestead that was so sacred and dear to him and his relatives. With each armful of furniture loaded into the van he would burst into tears over his loss.

A friend passing by saw his anguish and distress, and moved with compassion and pity he went to the holder of the mortgage and said: "I know you don't want this old homestead. I know all you care about is your principal and interest. I have seen the sorrow of this man who has been forced to leave the old estate, and I am moved with compassion to return it to him. I have money to pay you, and I will buy the mortgage. I will pay both principal and interest if you will let the title pass to me."

It was done, and then this good friend went to the one in distress and said: "I saw your sorrow and anguish in leaving the old homestead. It is now mine; I have purchased it, and I propose to return it to you upon easy terms to which you can subscribe." The terms were specified and accepted, and this outcast was permitted to come back. What a glad day it was to him when he could return once more to those dear old familiar surroundings. A wonderful friend, was he not?

That is the kind of friend mankind has in Jesus Christ, for everyone who has come into this world entered for the first time into a glorious mortal body upon which there was a mortgage—the mortgage of death. Love this body as we will—and we ought to love it and cherish it and take good care of it—there will come a day when the mortgage will be foreclosed. Not one of us has the ability to pay the price to preserve from death these mortal bodies. The mortgage will be foreclosed whether we welcome it or not; willingly or unwillingly we shall one day be ejected from this mortal tabernacle and leave it; and when we are out of it—the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that even the righteous would look upon the absence of their spirits from their bodies as a state like unto bondage, and would long for the union of the spirit with the body again. Jesus Christ knew when He laid the foundations of the world what joy we would have by coming and dwelling in this world, for we shouted for joy that an earth was to be prepared whereon we should dwell. Not one of us was whipped here; we came gladly and willingly, although undoubtedly we knew that it meant sorrow, distress, pain and ultimate death. We knew also that beyond this vale there would be a grand future, for we had seen the vistas of the future rising endlessly onward and upward, even to the very throne of God.

THE WORK AND REWARD OF CHRIST

We knew that we could not ascend those heights without coming down into this mortal world, and so we came gladly and willingly. And yet, Jesus Christ knew the bondage we would feel when once we had been in contact with the physical, to be separated from it. The spirit united with the body makes for the joy of man, and to separate the spirit from the body, either in mortality or immortality, will never make for the complete happiness of man. Knowing that, even before coming into the world, Jesus Christ had prepared to pay the price to redeem that mortgage.

It was not in values such as we know, but by the death of this sinless One, by the death of this God, who earned eternal values of such a character that He could go, and He did go and bartered with death; and the scriptures say, and say truly that "He hath purchased us." He has bought every one of us so far as our mortal bodies are concerned. He has settled with death. The title

is His, and He proposes to restore to us this house that we love, this body from which we shall be separated. He proposes to return it to us on conditions that are easy, within our power—that of the poor as well as that of the rich—and if we comply with the fulness of His Gospel we shall receive these glorious bodies, not as they were, but immortalized, celestialized, glorified, fitted to dwell in God's presence, in the celestial kingdom, forever and ever. Failing in that, we shall yet have another opportunity; having kept the law in part, we shall receive bodies terrestrialized, fitted to dwell in terrestrial glory—far beyond the state and condition of mortality. And still for those who fail to ascend unto these heights, there comes the privilege and opportunity to reach a telestial state of glory—salvation with a telestial body, fitted to dwell in that glory; and even this condition is beyond the power of mortal man to conceive of.

THE AUTHORITATIVE VOICE OF CHRIST

So, my brethren and sisters, this wonderful Friend has indeed purchased us, and He came to earth to do it; He came to pay the price, and He holds the key and shall unlock the door for the exaltation and the salvation, according to man's will and desire, according to the price we pay, to bring us to glory, to immortality and eternal life. That is God's gift to the world—this precious Son. He did die and rose from the dead. The fact of His resurrection is the most outstanding thing of His whole career; for while it was not easy for men to contemplate or understand His miraculous birth—many were doubting that—but who had broken the seal of death until His time? Countless millions had gone the way of all flesh and had remained silent so far as the tomb was concerned; but here was One who came with power in His hand to conquer and master even death itself and overcome it. No power with which man is confronted did Jesus Christ stand helpless before. The winds and the waves obeyed His voice, disease was overcome, ailments and affliction yielded; even the very elements obeyed Him and produced their wine, their loaves, and their fishes. Death itself had no power over Him, for He broke the bands and opened the way and is Master of all things. If I could not bring myself to believe of Him as miraculously conceived as the very Son of God, by the authority of accredited witnesses, if He held this marvelous power—that all things yielded to Him, even death itself, I would gladly accept Him and follow Him, because no one else has ever done what He has done. He holds the key, He leads the way, He is the Prince of Life, and by and through Him shall the resurrection come to every man and woman. All shall arise. He lives as real to-day as He did when He walked among men in mortality.

Joseph Smith's testimony and that of his associates is to the effect that He did, after the silence of the ages, speak again and

reveal Himself a real entity, an individuality as real as when the angel standing by said to the sorrowing disciples when last He was seen among men: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." A few saw Him ascend; a few have already seen Him descend; but He shall come also unto His temple as the prophets have declared. Yes, and the day shall come when even the wicked shall see Him and shall fall down and call for the rocks to fall upon them, to hide them from His marvelous presence. The day of His return speeds on, thank God, and with each passing year we are drawing nearer unto that glorious day when He shall come again to earth among men in mortality, as King of kings and Lord of lords. And the world will be willing to accept Him.

WORK IN PREPARATION

I declare to you, my brethren and sisters, that there is no power on earth nor never shall there be by all the schemes or plans of men, that shall establish peace on earth and good will to men, except this Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. Men shall yet see days of sorrow and trouble, turmoil and strife; and battle will wage until men shall be brought to the end of their own resources, having exhausted every means and power to establish that order of things which He alone holds the key to establish; and in humility they shall come and acknowledge Him and welcome Him when He does come. He will not come until they are ready for Him and are willing to make Him King of kings and Lord of lords.

But in the meantime His work goes forward in preparation for His coming. The foundation was laid one hundred years ago by this great modern prophet, Joseph Smith, who, I say, did more than any other mortal man since the death of the Apostles of the Lord Himself, to give the world a true and genuine conception of the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All honour and glory to the King of kings! May the time speedily come when He shall return to us. All honour and glory to the great prophet who prepared the way for the coming of his Lord and Master, who laid the foundation, who lifted up the banner and has given the world a true conception of the mission and the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord speed the day of Christ's glorious coming to reign and rule with men upon the earth, and the coming of the holy Saints of the ages that are past! God speed forth every measure of good will among men upon the earth, in preparation for it; for I bear witness to you, my brethren and sisters, that I see in all the lands of the earth God working among the nations. I see His power manifest. I see measures going forward by men who know not

even what they are doing; but they are God's instruments preparing the way for that glorious coming. The events of the next hundred years—the Church having been in existence one hundred years—will reveal so much that if I could tell you of them you would scarcely believe the miraculous things that will happen in that time, looking to the fulfilment and completion of those great and marvelous promises that have been made, in preparation for the establishment of that order of things that will be in readiness for the King of Glory; for come He will.

I bear my testimony and witness to you that I know that He was born of the Virgin Mary; that He was indeed the very Son of God. I bear witness that I know that He rose from the dead, and that He is, as real to-day as He was when the doubting Thomas thrust his hand into the side of Jesus and felt there the wound made by the spear. I know as well that He lives as that doubting Thomas did when, after these manifestations, he was convinced and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" I know as well to-day as I shall know when I shall stand in His presence and hear the magic of His voice and look upon His glorified countenance, or feel also the prints of the nails in His hands and feet. I know that He lives, and I know that He is the world's Redeemer and Saviour, their only hope.

God bless us during these holiday festivities, that we shall not be carried away with enjoyment to such an extent that we shall forget to pay homage and respect—proper homage and proper respect—to Him whose birth we celebrate, in glorifying Him by keeping His commandments and contributing something to help prepare that state and order of things that must obtain before He shall come again.

God bless the Latter-day Saints and all people everywhere who believe in this King of kings, that they shall be moved to honour Him, to magnify Him by exemplifying in their lives His teachings, and show forth their love of Him by keeping His commandments, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

TRUTH'S MESSAGE

THROUGH Joseph Smith the ages spoke.
 The voice of God men's spirits woke;
 Again Christ gave the battle call—
 Redemption's victory o'er the fall.
 Clothed with the Priesthood, Joseph rent
 The shrouds of ignorance, and sent
 Abroad the glorious message clear—
 "Salvation is to all who hear!
 To all who follow God's command
 In righteousness, and faithful stand!"

WESTON N. NORDGREN

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH MISSION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1929

Districts	Missionaries Dec. 31, 1929			Local Priesthood					Members	Children under 8 years old	Total Number of Souls	Baptized	Excommunicated	Died	Answered Calls While Tracting	Invitations in While Tracting	Gospel Conversations	Families Investigated	Tracts Distributed	Pamphlets Distributed	Copies of Book of Mormon Distributed	Other Books Distributed	Meetings Held by Missionaries	Total Hours Work
	H. Priests	Seventies	Elders	Women	Total	H. Priests	Elders	Priests																
Birmingham	3	13	16	26	18	10	35	517	67	673	22	7	33882	717	5919	1453	210483	6696	240	150	420	43854		
Bristol	1	11	12	5	6	1	6	97	28	143	4	1	41130	377	7379	932	147541	4586	133	147	441	33137		
Hull	10	10	10	8	9	7	24	214	47	309	9	2	40968	921	6226	1676	156891	4189	231	189	278	34159		
Irish Free State*				8	9	8	33	14	67	67					357	20	524		31	4	14	120	1044	
Leeds	2	12	14	17	21	17	41	477	67	640	12	7	23390	405	5594	949	119808	3358	154	91	296	39260		
Liverpool	2	14	16	11	30	9	49	490	57	646	27	10	40446	465	6517	2069	154084	6355	308	87	393	41608		
London	1	2	20	31	30	10	35	509	63	679	26	5	63291	474	10259	2610	319043	5132	444	272	904	58721		
Manchester	2	12	14	18	31	2	23	342	41	460	11	2	29311	330	8831	1450	157970	2684	139	133	339	41538		
Newcastle	16	16	16	14	23	13	35	450	85	620	14	2	34125	557	6746	1559	169443	2769	141	118	652	42944		
Norwich	1	9	10	7	10	4	7	123	29	180	3	1	27601	411	6873	968	143205	4391	116	100	346	28847		
Nottingham	1	15	16	24	18	15	31	345	65	498	10	9	50521	333	7916	3777	199642	9265	286	208	509	42984		
Scottish	2	10	12	11	14	4	21	209	42	301	23	3	33793	596	8478	1894	182822	6894	248	230	617	39380		
Sheffield	2	11	13	16	16	7	27	294	45	405	9	5	48152	373	6846	2566	175326	4686	215	143	375	39348		
Ulster	8	8	8	4	6	4	125	125	12	151	6	1	29038	335	5799	540	146794	5861	243	100	254	28365		
Welsh	1	11	13	7	7	2	11	93	20	140	6	1	26541	331	6769	1742	118867	5285	275	101	186	33098		
Mission Office ..	1	4	6																					
TOTALS.....	3	19	173	1196	1207	251	101	352	4318	682	5912	182	360	526189	6825	100509	24205	2402533	72412	3177	2083	6130	548587	

*Local Elder Benjamin R. Birchall, District President

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1930

EDITORIAL

CENTENNIAL PROVERBS

WHOEVER celebrates this Centennial Year by teaching the Gospel to a friend, thus bringing the light of truth to a darkened soul, happy is he; he shall increase in knowledge and pure joy.

To the person who, needing a tract to explain Gospel truths to an acquaintance, prepares one as his contribution to the Centennial missionary program, shall come love and honour from those engaged in the Gospel cause.

He who is afraid of rain is likewise afraid of his own shadow; but he that courageously goeth tracting in wet weather, shall reap a reward of friends, a clear conscience, and possibly converts; and his ambitions will soar and his clouds will have a sunny, silver lining.

To him who gets new ideas and uses them for the benefit of the missionary cause of the Lord, shall come larger opportunities of self-expression and self-betterment; "the new year means little or nothing if it does not bring new ideas," and a willingness to use them for righteous purposes.

He who resides in a lodge where conditions injurious to health are found, hammereth a nail into his own coffin each day he lingers there.

The positive, "do" side of the Word of Wisdom is so pleasing, so enticing, so health-giving, that were all men to follow it and live according to its teachings, they would not have the time nor the inclination to disagree with its negative, or "don't" side.

Whoever is ready to wound another shall be himself wounded; but he that lendeth a helping hand during this Centennial Year, shall himself receive a better understanding of the "pure love of Christ."

The sober, upright, clean-minded person forgets the passing tale; but the gossip hound runneth his legs off to scatter the muck.

To him who is diligent in all things, doing whatever his task may be and seeking to know the mind and will of the Lord, shall come the blessings of heaven; and his righteous prayers shall be answered.

A rebellious tongue is of no use to our Centennial work, but willing hands and hearts, ears that are quick to listen to the voice of authority, and minds intelligent enough to have faith in God and in His servants, will combine to promote the glorious Gospel cause this year.

WESTON N. NORDGREN

JANUARY, 1830

THE BOOK OF MORMON was being printed. Joseph Smith and his associate, Oliver Cowdery, were engaged in labours incident to the publication of the Book. Preparations were also being made for the organization of the Church.

THE EARLY CHARACTER OF JOSEPH SMITH

(JOSEPH SMITH SKETCHES—No. 3)

THE outward course of the boyhood of Joseph Smith did not differ much from that of any other healthy boy of the time and place. The boy, however, manifested, from early years, outstanding characteristics, such as independence of thought and action, and a vigorous desire to know the truth of all matters asking for his allegiance. He always refused to be a blind follower.

His insistence, however respectful, that established opinions must be tested for their truth, may have been the cause of enmity even in his early years. The seeker after new truth usually arouses suspicion and antagonism. Mother Smith relates that one evening when Joseph Smith, then fourteen years of age, was returning from an errand, he was fired upon by an unknown assailant, in ambush under a wagon standing near the house. The meagre records of the boy's life suggest that other attempts were made to injure him. This was all the more remarkable, since Joseph was of a type to give little offense, and, fond of healthy out-door sports, would more likely be popular with his associates.

The lad was soon obliged to assert his independence in religious matters. Waves of religious enthusiasm had often ebbed and flowed over the pioneer fringe of the advancing American boundary. When Joseph was about fourteen years of age, such a time of religious exhilaration was manifesting itself in his neighbourhood, in a series of revivals. Meetings were held by the various denominations, all contending for members; and the people were called upon to "come to Jesus," to turn away from their sins and be saved from eternal burnings. The more sober-minded of the population joined this or that church according to their deliberate convictions; the less stable, frenzied by inward upheavals, ran from one church to another. Scarcely a person in the community escaped the spiritual contagion of the occasion.

The Smith family, religiously inclined, naturally were not untouched. All must belong to a church—that seemed clear. Mother Smith, who, some years before, had affiliated herself with the Presbyterian Church, now renewed her fellowship with that communion, and three of her children—Hyrum, Sophronia and

Samuel Harrison—joined that church. Father Smith, though deeply religious, had remained independent of church affiliation. There is some reason to believe that some of the family, perhaps Father Smith himself, leaned towards Methodism—the sect that really had initiated the revival.

This situation brought to the surface the essential features of Joseph's character—qualities far beyond expectation in one so young, but which made his prophetic career possible. He went from church to church, listening to the claims of each. The "war of words and tumult of opinions" which he heard, exciting to a weaker mind, only confused him. True, he "became somewhat partial to the Methodist sect," but was not fully satisfied. His well-balanced, steady mind compelled him to come to a personal, complete conclusion.

Most of the people of the neighbourhood, swayed by the fervour of the moment, felt that membership in a church was the main thing; which church, was of little importance. This was unacceptable to Joseph Smith, who had the gift of clear vision. To him the idea of a church was associated with the most important realities of existence—with God Himself. The church to be selected became a serious, vital matter. The Lord could not logically stand at the head of all the churches with their varying claims and doctrines. His reasoning was simple enough.

His neighbours were content to take the word of the minister in religious matters, for was he not trained in religion? The most eloquent preacher was therefore the most successful. Joseph Smith, noting the confusion among the contending preachers, could not let any person determine his course for him. Truth, to him, was so sacred a thing, and so personal when once accepted, that he must know of its certainty for himself, and beyond doubt. The love of truth dominated Joseph's whole life. The opinions of others, whether neighbour or minister, brother or sister, father or mother, had to be tested by himself.

All this was interwoven with an overwhelming desire to know and to obey the truth of the Lord. His faith in the existence of God was simple and unwavering; his religious emotion deep and strong; his intellect unflinching in the face of spiritual realities; and all these powers were directed by a sincere, genuine love of truth. He resolved to seek out the truth of religion for himself, and with a childlike simplicity did not doubt but that he should find it.

Such was the mentality and spiritual outlook of Joseph Smith at fourteen years of age. His mother was probably right in her description of the lad as "quiet and well disposed," with only the "trivial circumstances" of the usual childhood to characterize his early years. But, within the boy, however commonplace his life seemed, tremendous powers were developing. Whether toiling in the field or wrestling with other boys on the green,

whether listening to the fireside conversation or the preacher's exhortation, thoughts and feelings were surging and blending within him and crystallizing into life-guiding principles—respect for truth and love of truth and courage to defend truth. These, coupled with simple faith in God, such as he possessed, form, anywhere and always, the foundation of sound progress. The boy was ripening rapidly in understanding. He was being prepared to receive, to accept and to disseminate truth.

Thus equipped, healthy in body, mind and spirit, the fourteen-year-old boy set out to find the true Church. That was the real beginning of his life's work.—W.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

ELDER HOWARD J. WILLIAMS

(Essay entered in the Centennial Competition)

YOUNG PEOPLE to-day, as always, seek a guiding star, an ideal from those about them, after which to pattern their lives. Some find their hero in the prize ring, some among the stalwart policemen, and others from the highest to the lowest types of humanity. But no matter how closely men of to-day are examined or how far into the pages of history one delves, no higher ideal or greater hero will be found than the present President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Heber J. Grant.

All through his life President Grant has exhibited the greatest of man-building virtues, among them honesty, straightforwardness, that "try-it-again" spirit, and the great crowning glory of sincerity. The best known of these is his ability to hold on to his aim that he may reach success, then to use that success as a stepping stone to greater things.

To illustrate this virtue I will draw from an incident in his life. There was a time when his ability to make music with his vocal chords was much as is the writer's to-day. Indeed that ability was so lacking that upon his seeking instruction from a noted teacher of music, that teacher refused to accept him on the grounds of his being a hopeless case. However, Brother Grant was undaunted, and he studied in spite of the teacher's decision. The result is what could be expected of such perseverance as he showed—success! In one of the late General Conferences convened at Salt Lake City, Utah, he exhibited his attainments by rendering a vocal solo before thousands! A great lesson may be drawn from this simple incident.

President Heber J. Grant was born November 22nd, 1856, at Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of Jedediah M. and Rachel R. Ivins Grant. He has the distinction of being the first of Utah's sons to be honoured with the calling of an Apostle and being numbered

with the Council of the Twelve. Also, he is the only man born in Utah who has held the highest position and greatest authority in the Church.

The Prophet's father was the first mayor of Salt Lake City, and was serving in that office at the time of his death in December, 1856. At this time President Grant was but nine days old, and was his mother's only child. It is natural that through his childhood and boyhood days he should be closely associated with his mother. She taught him from the first the highest of Christian ideals, and they were burned into his soul, never to be effaced, but always to help him on the road of life.

His scholastic education was received in the public schools of that time, and in the University of Deseret, now the University of Utah.

At one time, being very keen to attend a performance at the old Salt Lake Theatre, and having no means wherewith to purchase a ticket, he carried water to the top floor to gain admission. Later in life he owned the controlling interest in this same institution. His first employment was as a messenger boy and clerk in an insurance office. At the present time he is president of two insurance companies, as well as of the "Mormon" Church. Throughout his life he has displayed great business powers and has used them unselfishly to place the Church in a position of high standing. Besides being President of the Church and of two insurance companies, his name is among those of the executives of many business concerns. Through his "square" dealings with all with whom he comes in contact, he is respected by both Latter-day Saints and non-Church members.

When but a young man of twenty-four years, he was sustained as president of the Tooele Stake; and two years later (October 16th, 1882) he was called to fill a vacancy in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and was ordained to that office under the hands of Elder George Q. Cannon.

In 1901, while labouring in the capacity of an Apostle, he went to far off Japan and opened the way for the preaching of the Gospel in that land. Upon his return from the Japanese Mission in 1903, he was immediately called to preside over the European Mission. During these years of service in Europe he lived in Liverpool, England. Great strides in mission work were made under his direction.

At the death of President Joseph F. Smith, Elder Heber J. Grant was sustained as his successor, becoming President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on November 23rd, 1918, the day after the sixty-third anniversary of his birth. From that time until the present—eleven years—he has rendered high and faithful service to the cause he represents. May his days of service be many; and his life an incentive for good to thousands!

CORNER-STONE OF NEW BUILDING LAID IN DENMARK

WE HAD the pleasure of laying the corner-stone of our new Mission Chapel on New Year's day. The sun was shining brightly. About one hundred and fifty people assembled for the services, and a short program was carried out. We placed in the corner-stone a tin box, containing copies of the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, the *Scandinavian Star*, *Bikuben*, and a short history of the Scandinavian Mission. I notified the newspapers and three photographers were on the grounds for the celebration.

HOLGER M. LARSEN, Danish Mission President

THE MISSIONARY SPEAKS

ON WEDNESDAY, January 8th, a meeting was held in the lecture hall at Carrickfergus, for the purpose of exposing "Mormonism." All persons over sixteen were invited, but apparently five "Mormon" missionaries were too young to attend, for they were refused admission. The subject of the evening was: "Wives, Mothers, Daughters—Beware of 'Mormonism.'"

Although we knew falsehoods were being spread, we felt powerless to combat the influence of the meeting. But on the following day, the Spirit of the Lord whispered to many people that we would hold a meeting that night on the street, to defend our beliefs. We had no idea of doing so, until we were questioned, wherever we went, as to the time and place of meeting. This impressed us so forcibly that we soon became convinced it was the will of the Lord that a meeting be held.

Then it seemed that Satan tried to frustrate our plans. We felt that it was too cold to hold a meeting, and that if we did so, the people would try to break it up. As the time of meeting approached, it began to rain. Nevertheless, we offered the desires of our hearts to the Lord, and went forth to the square where we had previously held meetings, and began. It seemed that the whole town was out to listen, although the rain continued. As long as we spoke, refuting the statements made against us and giving the people the truth about "Mormonism" and the "Mormons," our audience was quiet. When we started for our lodge, the whole crowd of over a thousand people followed, some of them yelling at us. But through the blessings of the Lord and the help of the police, we were not harmed.

Thus, due to attempted persecution, we were able to bear testimony of the truth to over a thousand people, and to sow seeds which may later result in good. We are grateful for such an opportunity, and for the protecting care of the Lord.

WILLIAM YANCEY, ARLOW W. NALDER, Ulster District.

WHILE ATTENDING a party given at the home of one of the Saints, my companion and I were introduced to about twenty non-members of the Church. During the evening, I was called upon to recite, which I did gladly. Later in the evening, one of the visiting ladies asked me to give the readings at the church she attended, on the following Monday afternoon. I consented, feeling I might do some good.

On Monday, we went to the church and walked in as timidly and as meekly as lost sheep. The room was large, bare, without heat, and no one welcomed or greeted us. A hymn was sung, prayer offered, the Lord's prayer repeated by all, then I gave my readings, and games followed. As we could not stay long, we were invited to eat in a back room, which we did; and then, after bidding all goodbye, we left.

Our own socials have within them the warmth of love and brotherhood; we make an attempt to interest the stranger, to place him at ease, and to look after his wants. He feels the Spirit of the Lord, our hand of friendship, and goes away with joy in his heart, never to forget us. We should appreciate our privileges and extend to all the hearty pledge of brotherhood, always.

A look may be forgotten; a word misunderstood;

But the friendly touch of a human hand is the pledge of brotherhood.

ANDREW R. CLUFF, Manchester District

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers: The following missionaries have been transferred from and to the Districts specified: James B. Harvey, London to Free State; Raymond H. Swensen, Sheffield to Free State.

Swedish Mission Arrivals: The following missionaries arrived at Stockholm, to labour in the Swedish Mission: Brigham E. Olson, Virginia, Idaho; Joseph W. Coles, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Doings in the Districts: *Birmingham*—On December 11th, a mission meeting was held in the Handsworth Chapel, after which an interesting debate was held, on the subject: "Resolved that the English Dole system should be abolished;" members from the Handsworth and Kidderminster Branches were the debaters.

Bristol—An enjoyable District social was held by the Stroud Branch on January 11th. Many friends joined the members present. Refreshments were served by the M. I. A.

Liverpool—The organization of the Preston Branch was effected on Sunday evening, December 29th, 1929. Interest is again shown in "Mormonism" by the people of Preston, where the Gospel was first preached in England, nearly a century ago. Missionaries in attendance at the Branch organization were President Eugene Romney, Jun., Elders Earl B. Cragun and J. Blain Freestone.

The standardization of the District auxiliaries was initiated at the Liverpool District union meeting held on January 4th, at Blackburn. Comparative reports for auxiliaries were also introduced.

The Blackburn Branch Sunday School held a social and concert on January 11th. Prizes were given to members of the Sunday School for punctuality and participation.

Successful Relief Society conferences were held by the Blackburn and Burnley Branch organizations on December 12th and 19th, respectively. The theme of each conference was "The Relief Society and its purpose in the Branch."

Newcastle—A Christmas social was held at Gateshead in connection with the District M. I. A. competition. Approximately one hundred persons were in attendance. The colour scheme was red and green. The social was characterized by the spirit of Christmas, and was in every way successful.

Norwich—A party was given by the Norwich Branch Sunday School on January 18th. A program, refreshments, and presents for the younger members, were features of the evening's entertainment.

A Sunday School party was held in the Lowestoft Branch on December 31st. In the afternoon refreshments were served and the children received presents. In the evening the adults joined the children and all enjoyed a splendid program.

At the Norwich Chapel on Sunday, January 5th, a baptismal service was held after the Sacrament meeting, at which one person was baptized by Elder Herbert W. Carter, and confirmed by Elder Byron Vance.

Nottingham—The Derby Branch Sunday School held its annual party on January 4th. Guests from Eastwood, Leicester, Hucknall and Nottingham attended. Prizes were given to Sunday School members according to their record of attendance for the past year, after which a sketch was presented and refreshments served. The remainder of the time was used in dancing and in playing games. More than one hundred persons were in attendance.

An unusually large attendance marked the giving of a Christmas party on December 27th, in the Mansfield Branch. The children took active part on the program. Gifts were distributed to all children present. Special prizes were given for attendance during the past year.

On December 26th, a Christmas social was held in the Nottingham Branch hall, under the direction of the Branch Amusement Committee. An interesting program was given, games were played, and refreshments were served at slight cost, the proceeds to be used for Branch purposes.

Scottish—On December 4th, the first Neighbourhood Primary of the Scottish District was organized in Airdrie, Saltcoats Branch, with a membership of thirty-seven children, only one of whom is a member of the "Mormon" Church. The parents of the children are cooperating with the missionaries and with Sister Graham, Primary Leader, and lessons on Church History and Joseph Smith are being studied with zest.

At a baptismal service held in Aberdeen, at the river Don, on December 31st, two persons were baptized by Elder George H. Gray, and were confirmed by Elders Gray and William S. Costley.

A CONVERT'S PRAYER

A MESSENGER came, Lord, from Thee,
 With words I had longingly sought,
 And bade me to live and to love and to be—
 Since I was not made for nought.

He showed me then all of Thy purposes great,
 And brought forth my soul from its sin,
 And bade me cast out from my heart fear and hate,
 That Thy great peace might enter in.

Then glory to Thee, for the truth I now know!
 Raise me up, through Thine excellent plan—
 Give me faith, give me truth, that by love I may show
 In some little measure, Thy great love toward man.

Of living or dead, in all the wide world,
 Not a man may be lost, Thou hast shown;
 To all who are now in life's strange eddy whirled,
 Let these wonderful facts be made known.

Give grace to Thy servants, O Lord, now I pray;
 With love gird them round and about;
 Let Thy people rejoice, understanding Thy way;
 Let "All praise to the Lord!" be their shout.

Eastern States Mission

MARGERY WARFIELD

DEATHS

EVANS—Brother Benjamin Evans, of Coventry, Birmingham District, passed away on January 1st, 1930.

RIGBY—Doris Rigby, aged nine, daughter of Sister Ada Rigby, of the Blackburn Branch, Liverpool District, died on December 24th, after a prolonged illness.

STAPLETON—Sister Eliza Stapleton, the only "Mormon" of Wellingborough, as well as the Birmingham District's oldest member, passed away on January 4th. Funeral services were held on January 7th, under the direction of President Edward L. Blacker. Elder Therald N. Jensen spoke, and Elder Cyrus W. Greaves dedicated the grave.

BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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